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GRANGE-OVER-SANDS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR
1958

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Town Hall,

Ulverston.

September, 1959.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Grange-over-Sands Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1958.

GENERAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area (in acres)	1,884
Population - Census 1951	3,028
- Registrar General's Estimate of home population, mid 1958	2,840
Number of inhabited houses	1,121
Rateable Value	£56,328
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£225

The Urban District of Grange-over-Sands is situated on the northern shore of the estuary of the River Kent which forms part of Morecambe Bay. It is a residential town and holiday resort.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The principal vital statistics for 1958 and for the preceding five years are given on page two.

Of the 35 births registered, 15 were females and 20 were males.

Approximatley 77% of deaths were in persons of 65 years of age and over. The main causes of death were:- Disease of the Heart and Circulation 23, Vascular lesions of the Nervous System 15 and Cancer 6.

Year.	Live births		Deaths (all causes)		Stillbirths		Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality			
	Number regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 popul- ation.	Number regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 popul- ation.	Number regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 total births.	No. of deaths regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 live births.	No. of deaths regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 live births.	No. of deaths regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 live births.
1958	35	x12.3	57	x20.1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	2	57.1	2	57.1
1957	31	10.8	49	17.1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
1956	27	9.5	54	19.4	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
1955	24	8.4	48	16.8	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
1954	25	8.9	61	21.7	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	40	1	40
1953	27	9.6	61	21.7	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Average 5 years 1953-57	-	9.4	-	19.3	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	8

x Adjusted Live Birth Rate (Comparability Factor 1.46) = 18.0 per 1,000
Adjusted Death Rate (Comparability Factor 0.54) = 10.8 per 1,000

The table below shows the comparisons between birth and death rates in England and Wales and this District.

The rates quoted are for 1,000 population in all cases.

Year.	England and Wales.		Grange-over-Sands Urban District.	
	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.
1958	16.4	11.7	18.0	10.8
1957	16.1	11.5	15.8	9.1
1956	15.6	11.7	14.0	10.3
1955	15.0	11.7	12.4	8.4
1954	15.2	11.3	13.1	10.9

STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health:- J.L. WILD. M.A., M.B., B.Chir., M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Other Appointments Held:- Medical Officer of Health -
Dalton-in-Furness Urban District,
Ulverston Urban District,
Ulverston Rural District.

Divisional Medical Officer -
Health Division No. 1 -
Lancashire County Council.

Public Health Inspector:- J.SPENCER, M.A.P.H.I., Certificate R.S.I.,
and S.I.E.J.B. Inspector of Meat
and Other Foods.

Other Appointments Held:- Assistant Surveyor.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

WATER SUPPLY.

The domestic water supply for the Grange Urban District is supplied by the Urban District Council and is from uncultivated moorland gathering grounds which are grazed by sheep. The gathering grounds are situated at Chapel House Plantation in the parish of Stavelay in the Ulverston Rural District supplying the reservoir at Simpson Ground, and a further area at Newton in Cartmel where two smaller reservoirs and treatment works are situated.

The total capacity of the reservoirs is 72 million gallons. Water is piped from Simpson Ground reservoir and can be fed either into the reservoir at Newton or directly to the filtration plant.

The treatment plant consists of eight pressure filters with the necessary chemical tanks etc. Chemicals added to assist filtration are Sulphate of Alumina and Sodium Carbonate. After filtration, lime is added, the water is chlorinated and passes to covered storage tanks having a capacity of 140,000 gallons thence to the trunk mains for distribution.

The filtering medium is washed and cleansed daily and the pH of the water is checked twice per day.

There are three service reservoirs in Grange, at Windermere Road (150,000 gallons), Hampsfell (200,000 gallons) and Watbarrow (200,000 gallons) which serve as reservoirs in case of interruption in trunk mains and also for equalising demand in the mains.

There are no private water supplies in the area and all houses have a piped water supply.

The supply was adequate in quantity throughout the year. One sample of untreated water and four of treated water were submitted for bacteriological examination and received satisfactory results.

One sample of untreated water and five of treated water were taken for chemical analysis, all reports being satisfactory.

RAINFALL.

	January	5.75	May	4.73	September	6.59
	February	5.27	June	3.62	October	6.16
	March	1.38	July	3.03	November	2.13
	April	1.75	August	4.81	December	3.77
Year.	<u>First</u> <u>Quarter.</u>	<u>Second</u> <u>Quarter.</u>	<u>Third</u> <u>Quarter.</u>	<u>Fourth</u> <u>Quarter.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	
1944	8.12	10.90	16.22	20.33	56.06	
1945	13.22	10.80	10.20	10.39	44.61	
1946	12.97	8.72	20.12	16.83	58.64	
1947	9.89	12.42	9.87	11.74	43.92	
1948	16.86	13.69	14.95	13.39	58.89	
1949	9.29	9.18	9.86	21.02	48.55	
1950	11.83	8.63	21.04	12.87	54.37	
1951	15.86	5.87	13.72	12.86	48.31	
1952	10.38	9.58	8.14	10.24	38.34	
1953	5.97	8.94	13.50	13.74	42.74	
1954	13.17	11.13	20.85	23.50	68.65	
1955	6.31	11.75	8.49	12.76	39.31	
1956	6.61	4.83	17.25	9.74	38.43	
1957	12.22	5.69	14.55	12.78	45.24	
1958	12.40	10.10	14.43	12.06	48.99	
15 years average	11.00	9.48	14.21	14.28	49.00	

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The Urban District is sewered in the main on a combined system, although some of the houses have rainwater drains leading to soakaways within their own outfallage.

Disposal is by settlement tanks and screening followed by discharge into the tidal estuary.

Most of the district is sewered, apart from isolated areas which are dependent on septic tanks. These areas are briefly, the higher parts of Grange Fell, the Slack area of Windermere Road, Lyndene Estate, a number of farms and Holme Island.

Sewage from the lower end of Grange adjacent to the railway station is collected in a well situated in the Ornamental Gardens where dual pumps are installed to lift the sewage into the main outfall sewer. This sewer runs the full length of the promenade from the station to the main outfall tanks, where sewage is screened and discharged into the estuary. The higher parts of the town (excluding the Kents Bank and Cart Lane areas) discharge into the tributary sewers which ultimately join the main sewer on the promenade.

During the year, the pumps in the Ornamental Gardens were completely overhauled and improved and are now an important part of the sewage system.

In the Kents Bank area the main outfall sewer passes under the railway adjacent to Kents Bank Station and then along the seaward side of the railway embankment to a settling tank (situated at Kirkhead End), the outfall from which discharges into the estuary.

The Cart Lane area drains into a settlement tank and then discharges via a tidal door into the estuary.

Regular emptying of the settlement tanks kept the system working reasonably well, and the stoppages were due to scrubbing brushes, rags etc. which always seem to find their way into drainage systems.

All the houses in the Urban District are provided with fresh water closets.

Nineteen properties were connected to the main sewer during the year.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

A fortnightly collection of domestic refuse was maintained throughout the year. A reduction in this time would be a desirable improvement but with the present staff and equipment this is very difficult to achieve.

The domestic refuse is collected with a special type vehicle employing a staff of two, assisted when necessary by the general purpose vehicle and a further two men.

Where necessary, extra collections were made for Hotels, Cafes, shops, etc. This was undertaken jointly by the two vehicles employing in all a staff of four.

The whole of the refuse is dealt with at the Council's incinerator and non-combustible material is tipped adjacent to the incinerator. The tip was maintained in a fairly tidy condition, due partly to the stopping of indiscriminate tipping.

Scrap, baled tins and other metals were sold during the year, receipts for these amounting to £550.

All the houses in the district have moveable dustbins.

FOOD INSPECTION.

Details regarding the inspection of meat, shops, vehicles and places where food is prepared are given in the report of the Public Health Inspector, as also are the particulars of registration under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 and the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1952.

HOUSING.

A fairly high standard of housing exists in Grange. The older houses, many of which have been converted into flats, are in the main, stone structures, whilst the more modern type are of brick and/or stone.

In the Grange Fell area, where there is a large proportion of smaller and older dwellings, the properties are in a reasonable state of repair, the majority being owner occupied. The principle defect to this type of house is the shortage of yard space but most have gardens of considerable size thereby reducing the density.

No conditions of overcrowding were discovered during the year.

No council houses were built during the year.

Number of new houses erected during the year:		<u>Houses.</u>	<u>Flats and Maisonettes.</u>
(1)	By the local authority	Nil	Nil
(2)	By other local authorities	Nil	Nil
(3)	By other bodies or persons	14	4
			By conversion

1. Inspections of dwelling-houses during this year:-

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	60
	(b)	No. of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose.	99
(2)		Dwelling houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit:	
	(a)	Number found during the year	Nil
	(b)	Total number existing at end of year	Nil
(3)		Number of dwelling houses found during the year to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit	43

2. Houses Demolished during the Year

Nil

3. Unfit Houses Closed.

Nil

4. Unfit Houses made Fit and Houses in which Defects were Remedied.

		<u>By Owner.</u>	<u>By Local Authority.</u>
(1)	After informal action by local authority	32	—
(2)	After formal notice under -		
	(a) Public Health Acts	Nil	Nil
	(b) Sections 9 and 16, Housing Act, 1957	Nil	Nil
(3)	Under Section 24, Housing Act, 1957	Nil	Nil

5. Unfit Houses in Temporary Use (Housing Act, 1957) Nil
6. Houses in Clearance Areas Purchased By Agreement Nil
7. Housing Act, 1949, and Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958 Improvement Grants etc.

Action during year:-	Private Individuals		Local Authority	
	No. of Schemes.	No. of Houses.	No. of Schemes.	No. of Houses.
(a) Submitted by private individuals to local authority	6	6	-	-
(b) Approved by local authority	6	6	-	-
(c) Submitted by local authority to Ministry	-	-	1	1
(d) Finally approved by Ministry	-	-	1	1
(e) Work completed	3	3	Nil	Nil
(f) Additional separate dwellings included in (c) above		1		Nil

CAMPING SITES.

Two sites were used in the district for camping purposes. No licences were issued by the Local Authority under the Public Health Act. No caravans were permanently occupied. Routine visits to the sites were carried out and informal action was necessary on occasions.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Disease.	Number of cases in year					1958		
	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	Number of Cases	Removed to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet fever	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Measles	18	86	17	5	6	50	0	0
Whooping cough	0	4	38	1	19	7	0	0
Pneumonia	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	0
Erysipelas	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Food poisoning	0	0	0	0	18	0	0	0
Poliomyelitis	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Paratyphoid fever	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
TOTALS	25	90	57	6	46	58	1	0

TUBERCULOSIS.

No cases of tuberculosis were reported from the Grange Urban District during the year under review.

RODENT CONTROL.

The Council carry out their duties under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, with the use of two part time rodent operatives, one of whom is hired from the Ulverston Rural District Council by mutual agreement as and when occasion demands.

No serious infestations of properties were found during the year, 182 inspections of all types of property being carried out, resulting in 130 treatments for either rats or mice.

After the last Ministry of Agriculture sewer treatment held in June 1957, the Council were given an exemption from further sewer treatments until 1960, due to the test baiting each year showing the sewers to be free from infestation.

During the treatments at various properties however, the sewers in the vicinity have been test baited but no "takes" were recorded.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 & 1948.

Most of the factories in Grange are allied to other businesses, such as shops, bakehouses and workshops operating machines, and are therefore legally designated as factories. Most of these were visited and informal action necessary on a few occasions for want of cleanliness or unsatisfactory sanitary accommodation.

Premises.	Number on Register.	Number of Inspections.	Number of Written Occupiers Notices. Prosecuted.	
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority.	1	1	Nil	Nil
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local authority.	22	17	1	Nil

SHOPS AND OFFICES.

Fifty one inspections were made under the Shops Act, 1950 and eight offices under the Public Health Act, 1936. Only informal action was necessary where notices were not displayed and cleanliness not up to standard.

SCHOOLS.

There are 3 schools within the district. All have a satisfactory mains water supply and sanitary accommodation, and are provided with dustbins. All are drained to the public sewer.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are no offensive trades operating in Grange.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 & 1951.

No action was taken under the above Acts during the year.

The report of the Public Health Inspector is appended.

In conclusion, I thank the members of the Health Committee and the Officers of the Grange-over-Sands Urban District Council and in particular the Public Health Inspector and Surveyor for their courtesy and help.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J.L. WILD.

Medical Officer of Health.

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
ON THE INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

Only tuberculin tested milk is sold in the district and no heat treated milk is sold. There were nine persons retailing milk in Grange, seven operating from premises within the Ulverston Rural District, one from a dairy farm and one from a shop within the district.

54 samples of milk were taken for bacteriological examination and 13 gave unsatisfactory results. The facts were reported to the County Milk Production Officer and subsequent samples were satisfactory.

None of the 54 samples contained tubercle bacilli.

ICE CREAM.

Twenty premises are registered for the sale of ice cream and of these five are registered for manufacture by the cold mix method. At only one, however, is ice cream manufactured, all the remainder sell ice cream obtained from reputable firms.

MEAT INSPECTION.

One private slaughterhouse is licensed and used by one butcher.

Ante-mortem inspection of all animals is carried out whenever possible and post mortem inspection of all animals is carried out.

It is pleasing to note that the general standard of health of animals entering this slaughterhouse has been maintained at a fairly high level.

The other butchers in the town either use the public abattoir at Ulverston or buy their meat from wholesale suppliers.

Statistics are given as to number slaughtered and number of diseased animals.

	Cattle Excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed	153	-	3	510	188
Number inspected.	153	-	3	510	188
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned.....	-	-	1	1	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.....	26	-	-	20	11
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis..	16.99%	-	33.3%	4.11%	6.91%
<u>Tuberculosis Only.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned.....	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.....	-	-	-	-	1
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	0.53%
<u>Cysticercosis.</u>					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.....	2	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration.....	2	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned.....	-	-	-	-	-

UN SOUND FOOD.

During the year, the following articles of food were surrendered for destruction after examination.

	<u>Quantity Examined</u>	<u>Quantity Condemned</u>
Frozen fillets of beef	97 lbs.	97 lbs.
Tinned meat	120 lbs.	101 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.
Tinned fowl	15 lbs.	3 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.
Tinned fish	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb.	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb.
Tinned fruit	9 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.	68 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Tinned vegetables	8 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.	8 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Potatoes	300 lbs.	140 lbs.
Margarine	42 lbs.	36 lbs.
Almond paste substitute	28 lbs.	28 lbs.
Cream	2 galls.	2 galls.

FOOD PREMISES.

Routine inspections of food premises found numerous small faults in the state and cleanliness of premises and also in food handling practice. Formal action under the Food and Drugs Act was not necessary, the faults being remedied when attention was drawn to them.

Traders co-operated very well on the whole, improvements and alterations being made, many quite voluntarily, and as the quest for perfection in the food hygiene field is never ending, it is hoped to improve still further the standard in Grange.

I have the honour to be,

Yours obediently,

J. SPENCER.

Public Health Inspector.

